

Mr. Speaker, we hear much these days about the need to work closely with our friends and allies in South Korea. Here is a concrete request from Seoul. If the idea of working in cooperation with South Korea has any meaning at all, then I don't see how we have any choice but to honor Minister Hong's request that we not sabotage the Agreed Framework.

I submit Minister Hong's letter to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, so that other Members may have the benefit of his views.

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
TRADE,

Seoul, Korea, September 16, 1998.

LEE HAMILTON,
Congressman, House of Representatives, Ray-
burn House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON. It was a great pleasure to meet you during my recent visit to the United States. In particular, I am very grateful for your kindness in attending the meeting I had at the U.S. House of Representatives. I found the discussions on the U.S.-Korea relationship as well as our policies toward north Korea to be very useful and informative.

As discussed during our meeting, I fully share with you and your colleagues the deep apprehension about north Korea's recent actions, such as the construction of underground facilities and the firing of a launcher.

However, we believe that the Geneva Framework Agreement, though not perfect, has played an effective and useful role in freezing north Korea's nuclear weapons program and thus maintaining peace and security of the Korean Peninsula and in North-east Asia.

As we press north Korea to fully abide by its obligations under the Agreement, we should be careful not to give it any excuse to break the nuclear freeze. In this respect, the support of the U.S. House of Representatives for smooth implementation of the Agreement is most important.

At the same time, it is essential to draw north Korea to engage in genuine dialogue and exchanges with the Republic of Korea. Lasting peace and security on the Korean Peninsula can not be realized without talks between the parties directly concerned. We count on the continued assistance of the U.S. Congress for our engagement policy toward the north.

Once again, thanking you for your support and the warm hospitality extended to me during my visit to the United States, I wish you good health and success in all of your noble endeavors.

Sincerely,

HONG SOON-YOUNG.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF ROBERTA MURPHY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inform our colleagues of the passing earlier this week of one of the most remarkable public servants of our Hudson valley region in New York.

Roberta Murphy was one of a kind. Our local newspaper dubbed her "the bulldog of Orange County" and considering her tenacity and dedication to the public interest that description is certainly apt. Roberta was a deeply caring person, and at the same time was also a skilled political leader who knew how to get

things done and how to accomplish the impossible.

Roberta Murphy was first elected to the Legislature of Orange County, NY, in 1977, the first woman ever elected to that body. It became obvious as the years went by that she was no mere follower or rubber stamp who went along with others. Rather, she was a trailblazer, willing and eager to lead. In 1993, she became the Chairman of the Legislature—the first woman in New York south of Albany to serve in that position. It was as Chairman that she became a household word throughout our region. Many of the vital projects important to our county, including the expansion of our courthouse, the resolution of our landfill problems, the need for a new jail, moved forward under her leadership after vexing others for so long.

Roberta Murphy was a member of the Monroe-Woodbury Board of Education even before entering county politics, and served a total of 20 years in that position, and the education of our young people remained her first love. She often would question me and my staff regarding our educational policies, reminding us of her firm belief that our local school boards know what is best for their students, and that it is the role of the Federal government to assist when appropriate, but never to dictate.

Governor George Pataki came to know Roberta well when he represented her home town in the State Assembly. When she passed on earlier this week at the age of 66, the Governor stated: "Roberta was a tremendous personal friend and a woman of just tremendous courage."

Perhaps the greatest demonstration of the affection with which Roberta was held by all is the fact that in both 1993 and 1997, her constituents reelected her by the largest margin of any of the 21 members in the Orange County Legislature.

Roberta's husband John, with whom she had a remarkable partnership, predeceased her by four and a half years. She is survived by their sons, Robert, John, and Steve. She was also a proud grandmother.

I invite our colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest condolences to Roberta's entire family, and to her countless friends and admirers. Hopefully, their grief will be somewhat tempered by the knowledge that Roberta Murphy was a truly unique individual who touched many lives and who dedicated her life to a better society for all of us.

Roberta will be long missed by all of us.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER OF DR. CLIFF GILLESPIE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the contributions Dr. George Clifford Gillespie, Jr. has made to Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and his community.

Dr. Gillespie is the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management at Middle Tennessee State University. He is a native of Nashville and received his undergraduate and Masters degrees at MTSU. He also received a doctorate in College Administration from the

George Peabody College at Vanderbilt University.

From 1975 to 1996, Dr. Gillespie held the position of Dean of Admissions, Records, and Information Systems at Middle Tennessee State. At the time of his appointment, he was the youngest person to hold such a position in the United States. From 1983 through 1986, Dr. Gillespie held the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the Executive Committee of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. He has also been a presenter at the annual meeting of AACRAO on numerous occasions. In 1994, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) appointed him Interassociation Representative.

Dr. Gillespie had the honor of being selected to serve on the Board of Trustees of ACT Inc. from 1998 to 2001 this year. Richard L. Ferguson, ACT President, said that "during his six years as Tennessee Representative to the ACT Corp., Cliff Gillespie has consistently given thoughtful advice on ways ACT can enhance its educational services."

Dr. Gillespie has done an exceptional job as Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management. Since his employment with the school in the early 70's, he has brought about many changes. Under Dr. Gillespie's leadership, enrollment has almost doubled. In addition, ACT average scores for the entering Freshmen at MTSU are above the national average and exceed the Tennessee tested population averages. He is truly a strong proponent of the institution.

Dr. Gillespie has also distinguished himself as the annual premier announcer for horse shows at the national and international level, including the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration at Shelbyville, TN and the International Championship Horse Show held at MTSU. His enthusiasm has earned him the distinction of being one of the best announcers in the country.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Gillespie on his stellar accomplishments. Additionally, I want to sincerely and personally thank Cliff, his wife, Gayle, and their children Matthew, Michael and Lauren for their contributions to Middle Tennessee State University and the Murfreesboro community.

CONGRATULATING THE NEWTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Kittatinny Hose & Ladder Co. #1 and Steam Co. #1 on their 125th anniversary of service to the residents of Newton, New Jersey. These two companies of the Newton Fire Department will be honored for meritorious service during the Sussex County Fireman's Inspection Day Parade on Saturday, October 3, in Newton. The Newton Fire Department this year has the honor of hosting the parade, which honors the hard-working volunteer firefighters of the entire county.

Volunteer firefighters are among the most dedicated public servants in our communities. They set aside their own convenience—indeed, their own safety—to protect the lives and property of their neighbors and ask nothing in return. Volunteer firefighters turn out to

do their duty in the darkness of freezing winter nights and in the heat of suffocating summer days without hesitation. The officers and members of Kittatinny Hose & Ladder Co. #1 and Steam Co. #1—along with all members of the Newton Fire Department—deserve our gratitude and thanks.

Kittatinny Hose & Ladder Co. #1 and Steam Co. #1 were both incorporated in September 1873 and throughout their long and distinguished histories have protected both lives and property through the dedication and skill of their many volunteer members. Both have grown vastly in personnel, equipment and other resources over the years. Today, they are among the finest firefighting organizations in the State of New Jersey.

Both fire companies keep their heritage alive with lovingly maintained pieces of antique fire apparatus that show how far firefighting has come since the last century. Kittatinny Hose is the proud owner of an impressive 1849, four-wheel Hose Carriage, while Steamer Co. #1 owns a distinctive 1873 Clapp and Jones Steamer. Both will be on display in Saturday's parade.

Kittatinny Hose & Ladder Co. #1 and Steam Co. #1 have come a long way from the hand-pulled fire wagons of the 19th century. Today's state-of-the-art engines and high-tech equipment put Newton on par with any other fire department in the region. But it takes more than equipment and buildings to run a fire department. It takes dedicated, hard-working individuals willing to put the safety and property of their neighbors first. Kittatinny Hose & Ladder Co. #1 and Steam Co. #1 were founded 125 years ago on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors. That principle has made them a success and will continue to do so in the future.

I would like to ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating Kittatinny Hose & Ladder Co. #1 and Steam Co. #1 on 125 years of meritorious service to the community and in paying tribute to their brave and dedicated firefighters past and present who have sacrificed personal safety in response to the needs of others. The Newton Fire Department and all members of all the fire departments of Sussex County deserve our deepest thanks for their work on the behalf of our community.

WHO'S WATCHING THE WATCHDOG INSPECTOR GENERAL OVER- SIGHT COUNCIL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to create an Inspector General Oversight Council.

1998 marks the twentieth anniversary of the creation of the Office of Inspector General. It was created to be an independent and objective investigative unit within an agency but not under the jurisdiction of that agency. My intention is not to change the independent nature of the office, but recent events involving the Inspector General's (IG) office have raised concerns about the necessity for oversight. Events such as:

A Treasury Department Deputy Assistant Inspector General asserted pressure for inves-

tigation of an IRS Deputy Commissioner about personal tax matters over which the IG has no jurisdiction. This came after a Senate hearing during which the Deputy IRS Commissioner apologized for IRS abuses of taxpayers.

A former Treasury IG resigned on the eve of the Senate Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Investigations' release of a report criticizing the awarding of sole-source consulting contracts.

Despite concerns expressed by the Social Security Administration's Commissioner and employee groups, the SSA's IG planned arrest scenarios using SSA field offices to arrest wanted criminals, potentially endangering the public and field office personnel.

A series of skirmishes between the Secretary of HUD and IG of HUD caused Senator FRED THOMPSON (R-TN) to observe "... maybe we ought to try to get someone's attention over there ..." (Washington Post, Sept. 9, 1998).

IGs have three principal responsibilities: to conduct and supervise audits and investigations; to combat fraud and promote efficiency; and to keep Congress and the agency head fully informed about problems and deficiencies. The original act did not anticipate the need to deal with arguments between the Secretary and IG of an agency, and provided no forum for the airing of grievances and input of impartial advice.

The bill I introduce today will create an Oversight Council to address concerns, such as those highlighted earlier, and recommend solutions to Inspector Generals. This would increase public confidence in the federal government by assuring that the Inspector General is held to standards of accountability and integrity while preserving the independent, nonpartisan role of the Inspector General. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation to create an Inspector General Oversight Council.

THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE PALESTINIAN ECONOMY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the Dvar Torah sermon Leo Kramer gave at the Adas Israel Congregation on August 8, 1998. The sermon is entitled "The Palestinians: The Strangers amongst Us."

Leo Kramer is an international business consultant with strong ties to Israel, but also with a strong commitment to helping the Palestinians enhance their economy. He sees Palestinian economic advancement as a key Israeli and U.S. interest and as essential to promoting real and effective peace. He says "We need to change the facts. The facts of Palestinian poverty, lack of export access, lack of dignity and respect. Once the facts change, the attitudes will change". And peace will be promoted.

Leo Kramer's remarks follows:

"THE PALESTINIANS: THE STRANGERS
AMONGST US"

(By Leo Kramer)

As Americans, as Jews, our commitment, our objective is clear—a secure Israel where

Judaism thrives, the salvation of the Jewish people

This is only possible in a peaceful environment.

What has happened the last 50 years?

Where are we now?

The answers ethically and practically are in Torah. Morality leading to action guarantees results.

"Do that which is right and good" (Deuteronomy, Chapter VI, verse 18), page 772 of Hertz Chumash—second edition.

"To do them" (Deuteronomy Chapter IV verse 1), page 756.

Man must act. Not only believe.

Not declarations for peace,

Not excuses based on what is wrong with others.

But to do what is right and "to do" means to deliver on the ground, where people live.

And what is right in our treatment of the strangers is clear.

How to Treat the Strangers (The Palestinians):

1. "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Exodus, Chapter 22, verse 20).

2. "And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not do him wrong, The stranger that sojourneth with you shall be unto you as the home born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself" (Leviticus Chapter, 19 verses 33-34).

3. "And I charged your Judges ... Hear the causes between your brethren and judge righteously between the man and his brother and the stranger that is with him". (Deuteronomy Chapter IV verse 16).

The strangers amongst us, amongst our brethren, are the Palestinians.

And who are these Palestinians? Stereotypes don't work. Sometimes anecdotal history helps:

Ewan Clague, my colleague, no longer with us, who served four presidents and was the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, taught me, "If your eyes differ with data, believe your eyes."

Let me tell you what my eyes have seen and what my ears have heard.

A. When I last was in Amman, people remembered my first visit. Yes, I said, five years ago. No, they said eight.

That was the beginning of this mission taking the road less traveled. And as Robert Frost wrote. . . "that has made all the difference."

When Israel agreed at that time with the European Community on the unrestricted shipment of Palestinian goods to Europe, Israeli leadership asked me to help the Palestinians because they were sure that economic problems would follow.

Sometime later my wife and I were invited to a New Year's Eve party in Amman.

On arrival, we found ourselves meeting with Palestinians who also asked for the same help.

Israelis and Palestinians requesting the same positive help started me on this less traveled road.

B. Soon I found myself setting in a packing house in Gaza. Present were fathers and sons, brothers and uncles and nephews and soon I wondered why they all have the familiar American accent. I asked how come and where they were educated. I found they went to college in Michigan, Tennessee and Arizona.

C. And some time later an orthodox Jew in New York says, "Leo, you must explain to the Palestinians the effect and meaning of Passover. And he prepared an excellent summary for them which I delivered. Not long thereafter, I find myself sitting with the Palestinians in Gaza, explaining Passover. They say they don't get it.

And I explained Passover again and they don't see the significance I am about to give